

affecting the permanency of the Government Grant to the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

2. A violation of the obligations arising from the Union, in not opposing, but rather countenancing, the payment of our Grant in a certain contingency, not to us, but to the Upper Canada Conference, for other and different purposes.

3. The decidedly and prominently political character of the "Christian Guardian," in violation of pledges given to us and to the Upper Canada Conference from 1833 to 1839.

II. That, after a most careful examination of the complicated and difficult subjects which have engaged the attention of the Committee appointed by the British Conference of 1839 to decide finally in all matters relating to the Union existing between the British Conference and the Upper Canada Conference, and to our Indian Missions in Upper Canada, and after having, in the course of a very protracted discussion, had abundant proof of the wisdom, care, and kindness which the aforesaid Committee have manifested in relation to the affairs of Upper Canada, the present Committee are unanimously of opinion that the members of the Committee on Upper Canadian affairs, particularly in the Resolutions adopted at their Meeting in London, on Wednesday, April 29th, 1840, and transmitted to the Upper Canadian Conference, have strictly adhered to those great principles which have always guided the Wesleyan Body; and that they are therefore entitled to the thanks of the Conference for the important services which they have rendered to the common cause of Wesleyan Methodism.

III. After a close consideration of the Resolutions of the Upper Canada Conference of 1840, in answer to the Resolutions of our Committee on Upper Canada affairs at their Meeting on April 29th, 1840, it was resolved,—

1. That this Committee is most happy to perceive that one of these Resolutions, which determines that the "Christian Guardian" shall cease to be a political paper, and shall be confined to purely religious and literary subjects and articles of religious intelligence, is to that extent satisfactory; but that the unqualified reservation of the "Clergy-Reserve Question,"—a reservation already so construed and abused as to be pleaded in justification of an almost unlimited discussion of great and general principles on Ecclesiastical Polity, held sacred by this Body;—and the absence of any adequate security for a more faithful observance of this Resolution than has been maintained with respect to similar pledges repeatedly given from 1833 to 1839;—in connexion with the fact that a direct negative was simultaneously given to another series of Resolutions, which would have been much more explicit and satisfactory on the several subjects referred to;—are circumstances which the Committee deeply regret, and cannot but regard with distrust and disapprobation.

2. That on the other important topics embraced in the Resolutions of our Committee on Upper Canada Affairs, dated April 29th, 1840, the Resolutions of the last Upper Canada Conference appear rather to imply an acquiescence in the evils complained of, and an official adoption of them, than a cordial determination to prevent their future recurrence by substantial and efficient measures; and seem to evince that there is a decided difference between the two Conferences on the construction of the Articles of Union, in reference to fundamental principles essential to the good working of the Union, and which the Committee are of opinion that the British Conference cannot abandon without compromising its own consistency and public reputation, inasmuch as it cannot safely be identified in views and responsibility with any Body, however respected, over whose public proceedings it is denied the right and power of exerting any official influence, so as to secure a reasonable and necessary co-ordinate but efficient direction, during the continuance of the Union.

IV. That, in the judgment of this Committee nothing has occurred, in the whole course of these negotiations, to shake the confidence of the Conference in the Rev. Joseph Stinson and Rev. Matthew Richey; and that the members of the Committee cannot but express their hearty esteem and approbation of the ability, fidelity, and diligence, with which these respected brethren have performed the duties officially confided to them.

V. That, notwithstanding the grounds of grievance and complaint on which the Committee have felt it to be their duty to express so strong an opinion, they are aware of the desirableness of maintaining the existing Union between the two Bodies, for reasons which relate to the general interests of our common Christianity, and to the continued connexion of the Province with the Mother Country. Yet, in their judgment, that Union can be advantageously maintained only by the strict and undeviating adherence of our Upper Canadian brethren to the following principles and regulations:—

1. That the continuation of the Government Grant to the Wesleyan Missionary Society be cordially assented to and supported by our Upper Canadian brethren, even if its payment should be ultimately transferred, as proposed in the "Clergy-Reserve Bill," lately passed by the Imperial Parliament, from the Casual and Territorial Revenue, on which it is now placed, to the Clergy-Reserve Fund in that Province; and that, as it appears that the payment of the Grant has actually been again suspended, and is at present withheld, to the great inconvenience and embarrassment of our Missions in Upper Canada, the Rev. Egerton Ryerson shall address a letter to Lord John Russell, disclaiming any intention or wish to deprive the Wesleyan Missionary Society of the Grant of £700 per annum, secured to that Society as a fixed charge for Missionary purposes in Upper Canada—requesting that its regular payment may be continued—and assuring his Lordship that any other construction which may have been put upon his letter to the Governor-in-Chief, was founded in a misapprehension of his meaning.

2. That the "Christian Guardian," or whatever newspaper or periodical may in future be recognised as the Official Organ of the Upper Canadian Conference, shall entirely abstain from all party political reasonings and discussions, confining its expressions of opinion to religious and literary topics.

3. That such Official Organ admit and maintain all the acknowledged principles of the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion; and that, in seeking for a right understanding on this point, the Committee have especial reference to that principle of our Body, which asserts it to be the duty of Civil Governments to employ their influence, and a portion of their resources, for the support of the Christian religion.

The Committee recommend, in conclusion, that the Conference now remit the whole affair to the management of a Special Committee, whose duty it shall be to draw up a statement, in a more detailed manner, of the points on which full satisfaction will be expected from the Conference of Upper Canada, and to make such a Report of the Resolutions of that Body there-upon as may enable our next Conference, assembling in Manchester, to determine finally the course which, in reference to this Union, it may then appear proper to adopt in the settlement of the whole affair.

II.—THE DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE.

The Report above inserted was presented to the Conference, and read in the hearing of the Rev. Egerton Ryerson and Rev. William Ryerson, Representatives of the Upper Canada Conference. They desired a copy of it, which was accordingly handed to them; and they retired to examine its several parts. When they returned, they were again heard at length, and mutual explanations were made on several points to which they demurred. In the end, they frankly and explicitly declared it as their opinion, that the Upper Canada Conference, of which they are the Representatives, would never be induced to accede to the views which are contained in the aforesaid Report, and concerning which such serious misunderstandings have arisen; and that the maintenance of such views on the part of this Body would be regarded by the Upper Canada Conference as a virtual dissolution of the Union. Upon hearing this, the Conference was reluctantly led to the conviction, that a continuation of the more intimate connexion established by the Articles of 1833 is quite impracticable. The Conference could not overlook the fact, that the pacific Resolutions which had already been proposed to the Upper Canada Conference of 1840 by some of its Members, were negatived by a large majority; and that, from the statement of the Rev. William Ryerson just made, the same disposition evidently remains, and clearly precludes

a further perpetuation of the Union. But the Conference wishes to express its fraternal and affectionate feelings towards the Upper Canadian Brethren, whose continued and increasing prosperity in the enjoyment of "all spiritual blessings," and in the extension of all beneficial spiritual influence, it earnestly desires; and while the relation subsisting between the two Conferences may henceforth be simply that which marks two independent sections of the great Methodist Family, it is devoutly hoped, and implored at the hands of our most merciful God, that they, and all other parts of the same Family, may always preserve towards each other such sentiments of sincere Christian friendship as become those portions of the Church of Christ which agree in many points of Doctrine and Discipline, closely bearing, as they firmly believe, on the best interests of mankind. And in order that every arrangement may be made in the kindest and most affectionate manner, the Conference deems it right to confide the whole affair to a Special Committee, who shall be invested with full authority to act, during this time and the next Conference in Manchester, in all matters connected with this subject, and especially to take measures, in conjunction with our General Missionary Committee, for the future prosecution of our work in the United Province of Canada, and of our Missions among the Aborigines and Destitute Settlers;—with power also to add to their number, and to appoint from among themselves such Sub-Committees as may be thought advisable. It is likewise recommended, that the Rev. Egerton Ryerson and Rev. William Ryerson be invited to attend the said Committee, or any Sub-Committee or Deputation which may be appointed by it, with a design to render every plan and disposition of affairs as amicable as possible. On the whole subject, therefore, the Conference resolves,

UNANIMOUSLY,—
I. That the first four Resolutions contained in the preceding Report of the Committee, as those Resolutions are revised and amended, be received and adopted by the Conference.

II. That as, for the reasons above suggested, a perpetuation of the Union between the British and Upper Canadian Conferences is judged to be impracticable, the fifth Resolution contained in the aforesaid Report, under all the circumstances in which the subject is now presented for the decision of the Conference, cannot be received and adopted; but that the following Committee be appointed, with all the powers already mentioned, to take the most judicious and Christian measures, in conjunction with the Rev. Egerton Ryerson and Rev. William Ryerson, as Representatives of the Upper Canadian Conference, that the formal dissolution of the Union may not be accompanied with anything that might produce embittered feelings, or injure mutual charity: viz., the President and Secretary of the Conference, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Reece, Richard Tiesfry, Thomas Jackson, John Scott, John P. Haswell, Edmund Gindrod, Thomas Galland, James Dixon, Joseph Taylor, Peter M'Own, Matthew Richey, Joseph Stinson, George Marsden, William Lord, Robert Wood, Bernard Slater, John Rigg, William Bennett, William M. Bunting, John Davis, sen., John Bowers, William Atherton, Richard Waddy, Isaac Keeling, Timothy Ingle, John Mason, Jun., Samuel Jackson, William Vevers, Joseph Fowler, William Barton, Francis A. West, Samuel D. Waddy, together with the Missionary Secretaries.

III. That the above-named Committee shall hold its first Meeting in Manchester, on Wednesday, August 19th next, and its subsequent Meetings as may be found convenient or necessary.

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST SOCIETIES.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

Being permitted by a gracious Providence to see the conclusion of the first year of the second century of our connexional existence, we praise God, and congratulate you on the glad occasion. The prominent place which Newcastle holds in our early history naturally disposes our minds to revert to the time when Methodism was as "a grain of mustard-seed, which is the least of all seeds;" and it would have afforded us pleasure to trace the means by which that seed waxed a